



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

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FIRST RESPONDER ORGANIZATIONS

A medical emergency often requires immediate medical attention to prevent permanent disability or death. Some of the most critical and visible health problems in Texas are catastrophic accidents and acute illnesses. Too often those who arrive first are not trained to give proper care. Studies have indicated that as many as 15 to 20% of accidental highway deaths could have been avoided if trained, experienced emergency care had been available. First Responder Organizations are often the first experienced caregivers on the scene.

The Texas First Responder Organization is a group, department or association which:

- Is licensed by the Texas Department of State Health Services.
- Utilizes personnel who are emergency medical services (EMS) trained and certified by the Texas Department of State Health Services.
- Works in cooperation with a licensed Emergency Medical Services provider.
- Operates under the guidance of a physician medical director.
- Does not transport patients.
- Often is staffed by volunteers but may be a paid organization.
- Often is the only available emergency medical care in remote or frontier areas of the state.

What services do First Responder Organizations provide?

- Routine response to emergency situations.
- Rapid on-scene emergency care for ill or injured persons.
- Stabilization of critical patients until advanced level of care and transport can arrive.
- First on scene in a mass casualty situation.

First Responder Organizations are....

- An important link in the chain of survival.
- Neighbors helping neighbors.



Please contact the Office of EMS & Trauma Systems Coordination for information about establishing a First Responder Organization in your agency.

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